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Efficient Handling of Download Requests

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A server is capable of receiving large numbers of concur-5 rent download requests, establishing TCP sessions with each client. A copy of the socket of each session, together with descriptor information of the file requested are transferred to a download manager, and the original connection immediately 10 closed. The connection to the client remains open via the copy of the socket, which is then converted to a non-blocking socket by the download manager converts to copy of the socket to a non-blocking socket, and downloads the requested information to the client using the non-blocking socket and its own connection to the server. The arrangement is capable of dealing with loads 15 that would ordinarily overwhelm the server's capability of establishing and maintaining individual TCP sessions with its clients. Heavy loads, including bursty peak loads, are handled gracefully, without causing the server to stall, or to refuse 20 connections.